

THE BULLETIN



A Publication of the Overseas Press Club of America • Hotel Biltmore, 55 East 43rd Street, N.Y. 10017 • (212) 687-2430

REVISED INFORMATION FREEDOM ACT EASES CITIZENS' ACCESS TO FILES

A revised Freedom of Information Act, which became effective Feb. 19, is designed to give citizens quicker, easier access to documents in federal government files. The title is: Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552. This means the law can be found in Volume 5 of the U.S. Code, section 552. The Code is available at law libraries and most lawyers' offices. A copy may be obtained by writing to your Congressman or Senator.

An organization willing to help media personnel exercise their rights under the revised Act is: Freedom of Information Clearinghouse, P.O. Box 19367, Washington, D.C. 20036. Contact Mark Lynch at (202) 785-3705.

The 1974 amendments written into law over President Ford's veto do several things:

They impose strict deadlines on federal agencies to respond to requests;

While they still give the government nine specific grounds for denying requests for documents, they define and limit the exceptions relating to national security and investigatory records;

They put the burden of proof on the government to justify a claim of secrecy when a request is denied and a citizen sues to get the information. Judges are permitted to review documents to see whether "Top Secret" classifications and other security labels are being misused to prevent disclosure of non-sensitive information.

On the other hand, the 1974 amendments do not make the act a magical "Open Sesame" for reporters and editors. You must start the disclosure machinery with a written request and be ready to file a prompt appeal to the head of an agency if the initial request fails. If your appeal is unsuccessful, you may want to seek a partial disclosure, or go to court. Although Freedom of Information Act cases are supposed to be handled speedily, and the government may get stuck with your lawyer's bill if you

CALENDAR

Monday, March 17, 5 p.m. — St. Paddy's Day at home at the OPC. Join your friends after the parade for the ultimate wearin' of the green. Cash bar.

Wednesday, March 19, 12 Noon — "Headliner Luncheon" to feature the Irish Ambassador to the U.N., Eamonn L. Kennedy. Topic: "Dublin Views the Belfast Problem." Luncheon: \$7.50 including tax and gratuities.

Friday, March 21, 12 Noon — Deadline: OPC Bulletin of April 1.

Tuesday, March 25, 6 p.m. — Gala new members party.

Thursday, April 3, 5:30 p.m. — Book Night. "The Media In America," a new book by John Tebbel. Cash bar. (Page 1)

Tuesday, April 8, 5:30 p.m. — Talking Shop with . . . Seymour Topping, Assistant Managing Editor, N.Y. Times. Topic: "A Reporters View of the Middle East." Cash bar.

Tuesday, April 15 — OPC Annual Awards Dinner. 6:30 p.m. — cocktails in the Fountain Court; 7:30 p.m. — dinner in the Grand Ballroom. Tickets will be \$40.00 each for members and one guest and \$50.00 for additional guests. Preferential tables in first five tiers: \$60.00 per person; \$600.00 for a table of ten. Reservations: (212) 697-5600 — Ext. 416. Miss Jeannette Longyear.

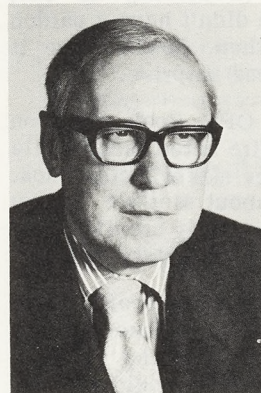
Wednesday, April 23, 12 Noon — "Headliner Luncheon" to feature Robert T. Hartmann, Counsellor to President Ford. Topic: "How the Counsellor to the President Functions." Luncheon: \$7.50 including tax and gratuities.

win, going to court can be costly as well as time-consuming.

The show of strong Congressional backing for the new law, however, may well open more of the closed federal files without resort to litigation.

JOHN TEBBEL NEXT ON OPC BOOK NIGHT

The story of *The Media In America*, a newly published book, will be discussed by its



JOHN TEBBEL
mester".

Author John Tebbel, at the OPC on Thursday, April 3rd at 5:30 P.M. Mr. Tebbel is the first teacher of journalism on network television with his CBS-TV "Media In America in Sunrise Semester".

His new book will be of particular interest to all OPC newsmen who want to know more about their field and how it developed. The author traces stories of the journalism greats but does this as part of the panorama of issues which shaped the media and were also investigated and untarnished by it. The book is filled with delightful anecdotes.

This is John Tebbel's tenth book on the media, and he will be on hand to answer questions from the audience after his talk.

FBI, PRESS SNUFF SMOULDERING FEUD

By HELEN ALPERT

The FBI has been given a facelift and a new personality. It is now approachable, cooperative and supportive of the press. "Something is happening between the FBI and the press, and what's happening is good," said "Shoptalk" chairman Larry Stessin in introducing the FBI's John J. McDermott to the OPC "Shoptalk" audience on Feb. 5.

Unshackled from J. Edgar Hoover's grim secrecy, all FBI personnel in the nation's 59 field offices are expected to uphold the "open stance" press policy announced by FBI director Clarence M. Kelley soon after he took office in July, 1973.

(Continued on page 2)

SAFIRE GIVES OPC INSIDE VIEW ON 'BEFORE THE FALL'

By THOMAS J. KRANER

The night Richard Nixon resigned the Presidency, he remarked that, "Some of the best political writing is done from jail."

It can be concluded, said William Safire, speech writer for the ex-President, *New York Times* columnist and author of "Before The Fall, An Inside View of the Pre-Watergate White House" (Doubleday & Co., \$12.50), that "He didn't have a pardon in his pocket, then. So I'm sure it came as a welcome surprise."

Speaking on OPC Book Night on February 27, Safire noted that "While Nixon won't ever make a comeback, he must think about Herbert Hoover who went out totally reviled and wound up a kind of elder statesman."

Safire discussed the events leading up to Watergate and observed that it was inconceivable to the "Palace Guard" that the tapes could ever be taken from them, that the wall of Presidential privilege could ever be breached, "Ironically, they felt that if they destroyed the tapes it would make them look guilty and might trigger an impeachment proceeding."

Safire also gave some capsule comments on the men around Nixon:

H. R. Haldeman: "The man whose decision to tape everything led to the downfall of the man he believed in."

John D. Ehrlichman: "A moderate and civilized man. He wore the white hat more than the black hat."

John N. Mitchell: "Mitchell stayed Mitchell. He played the heavy toward the end."

Ronald Ziegler: "Treated with contempt by Haldeman. Hired because of contempt for the press. Regarded by some as the best technical press secretary. Don't blame the messenger for the bad news."

\$ GRANT FOR JAZZ

A grant of \$2,000 has been pledged to the Overseas Press Club Foundation as a matching grant to support the OPC's twilight jazz sessions which were initiated in 1970. The donor is Herb Gruen, Director of Driver Training Institute, a tractor trailer vocational instruction school, and frequent guest of jazz chairman, Wilma Dobie, since the start of the jazz series. Mr. Gruen's grant will be used to explore available opportunities in the area of cultural grants.

REGIONAL REPORT

FROM HONG KONG

By AL KAFF

Foreign news agencies reported from Jakarta that Mochtar Lubis, one of Indonesia's most prominent journalists and editor, was arrested on February 4 for alleged subversive activities.

Lubis was publisher of the daily newspaper *Indonesia Raya*, which was closed following anti-government riots in Jakarta early last year.

Lubis also was a columnist for *Newsweek* magazine and current president of the Press Foundation of Asia. Former Indonesian President Sukarno, who was ousted by the present government, put Lubis in jail for 10 years for opposing communism, and Lubis received the Magsaysay Award for Journalism, a private U.S.-funded award given annually in Asia by the Magsaysay Foundation of the Philippines.

Immediately after Lubis' arrest, the Foreign Correspondents Club of Hong Kong sent the following cable to President Suharto: "Hong Kong Foreign Correspondents Club expresses concern over reported arrest Mochtar Lubis and urges Your Excellency assure him all legal and judicial rights. Our members know Lubis as distinguished international journalist whose long struggle for press freedom was recognized by his receiving Magsaysay award in journalism. We urge fair and humane consideration his case and his prompt release and full freedom of movement if innocent or charges unfounded. Respectfully Albert Kaff, President Foreign Correspondents Club."

The board of directors of the Foreign Correspondents Club of Japan sent the following cable to Indonesia from Tokyo:

"To President Suharto, Republic of Indonesia, Jakarta. Your Excellency, the Foreign Correspondents Club of Japan deeply regrets the recent arrest of Mochtar Lubis, one of Asia's most distinguished journalists. We earnestly and respectfully appeal for a quick and fair resolution of his case. Board of Directors FCCJ."

* * *

Several veteran foreign correspondents are leaving Hong Kong for new assignments in the United States.

Forrest C. (Woody) Edwards, who has been covering Asia since 1952, is moving to the AP Bureau in Honolulu. Woody covered the wars in Korea, Indochina and the Taiwan Straits and had been chief of the AP Hong Kong bureau since 1965. His replacement in Hong Kong is Bob Liu, former AP

bureau chief in Honolulu.

Henry Bradsher, a foreign correspondent for the past 15 years, is returning to Washington to cover the diplomatic beat for the Washington Star. Henry has been based in New Delhi, Moscow and Hong Kong.

Chester (Pete) Hively moves from Hong Kong to Chicago to become ABC news manager for the mid-continent. Pete has been directing ABC news operations in Asia since 1973.

Leon Daniel has moved from Manila to Hong Kong to become UPI general news editor for Asia. He replaced Al Webb, who transferred to the UPI news desk in New York.

FBI, PRESS. . .

(Continued from page 1)

"In a nutshell, Mr. Kelley's new policy commits the FBI to openly respond to all news media inquiries as far as is permitted by the mandates of law, ethics, and Dept. of Justice regulations. Our aim is to assist you in your work, not impede or frustrate you. In turn, we would expect timely, balanced and accurate reporting. We recognize that a free press is indispensable in a democracy," McDermott said.

"I know our press relations haven't been very good. Now we're fighting to make a comeback. If you receive a rebuff that seems unwarranted, I want to hear about it."

"Legal and constitutional restraints such as the rights of criminal defendants can't be abridged, however," he cautioned. Example: in 1966 the U.S. Supreme Court overruled Sam Sheppard's Ohio murder conviction because of prejudicial publicity attending the trial. Likewise: the acquittal of Carmine Persico because of press stories on his gangland past. "Both highlight the frequent conflict between the First Amendment's guarantees of a free press, and the Sixth Amendment's fair trial considerations. The problem is there's no easy solution, no universal yardstick to be applied. We all have to recognize this," he pointed out.

Media hostility and resentment apparently gave birth to the External Affairs Division that McDermott heads. "We're equipped and staffed to reply to the media as swiftly as we can get data, even to putting our own people to work to come up with specific information you need for your story. This extends to telephone inquiries from all over the world. If an answer is not swiftly available, we'll call back as fast as we can. Both of us want candor, cooperation and mutual respect."

OPCers WELCOMED TO MUNICH CLUB

By PAUL FREEDMAN

George Wulffius, President of the Munich Press Club for the past five years, was at the OPC recently, for an exchange of information on structure and operation of the two organizations. President Jack Raymond and Joe Peters, chairman of the Out-of-Town and Overseas Liaison Committee, conferred with him.

The International Press Club of Munich, which has long had reciprocal arrangements with the OPC and lists OPC as a corporate associate member on its 350-person membership roster, bids all OPC'ers to use its facilities when they are in Bavaria. Open every day, it is located at 22 Marienplatz in the very heart of Munich, with a memorable view of the picturesque City Hall and the historic Cathedral across the ancient Marienplatz square.

With a good-sized sprinkling of VIPs from outside the communications field in its membership, the Munich Club is a flourishing enterprise and stands out among those of the world's clubs where newsmen foregather. A specially inviting feature of its hospitality is the bar: so as to skip the bother of paying taxes on beer and drinks, these are served free of charge.

In October 1975, the Munich Press Club marks a quarter century since it was founded as a joint German-American venture. The anniversary will be celebrated by a number of events, among them a stage performance by journalist-members re-enacting significant local news stories of the postwar era. Some 50 times a year, the Club holds lectures, panel discussions, press conferences, lunches and dinners.

Mr. Wulffius is a veteran News Editor of Bayerischer Rundfunk, the Bavarian Radio and TV Network. In presenting a wall plaque with an attractive reproduction of Munich's medieval coat of arms to the OPC, he again extended a cordial invitation to drop in at the Presse-Club Muenchen.

LETTERS

The following letter was received by Matt Bassity, chairman of the OPC Admissions Committee.

To be a member of the OPC has been so much a part of my daily life in this wonderful city that the thought of not being associated with it any more is unbearable. Although I have been advised that my assignment is to be ended soon, I enclose my cheque for another year's membership. If I should have to leave before the end

NEW MEMBERS

William J. Wilson, Associate Director & Editor, The Christophers, Inc.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS

Active Non-Resident

Bern Keating, Free Lance.

SPONSORS: Rosalind Massow, Anita Diamant Berke.

Associate Resident

John Ross, Editor-in-Chief, Golf Magazine.

SPONSORS: Anita Diamant Berke Grace Naismith.

Associate Non-Resident

Sam Moore, President, Thomas Nelson Publishers.

SPONSORS: Kenneth Giniger, Matthew Huttner.

REINSTATEMENT

Associate Resident

John A. Gillespie, Mobil Oil Corp.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Collaborator wanted with connections to reshape and rewrite three published books that are copyrighted into one manuscript. It is a true story about the underworld that deals mostly with persecutions and fear. It may be rewritten as fiction based on fact. If you like money and want to earn it without being fearful, I have the story. Partnership basis only. Phone: (212) 366-5678, John Puoplo, 1839 Norman Street, Ridgewood, Queens, N.Y. 11227.

* * *

EIGHT-DAY GASTRONOMIC AND WINE-TASTING tour of Portugal including overnight stay at royal palace, fabulous feasts and receptions with gourmet group. A few openings available. \$750 includes 5-star hotels and air travel. April 24/May 2. Phone: (212) 879-9398, any time.

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TRANSLATOR - FRENCH - SPANISH - ENGLISH. Reports, mss., correspondence. Your office or mine. Gina Celestin, 174 E. 74th St., NYC 10021, (212) 628-7363 or MU7-7248.

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of the year, I will gladly transfer it to somebody who needs it, or carry it over at the overseas-rate. May I say how much I enjoy attending meetings at the club, listening to prominent speakers or having lunch in the pleasant new surroundings. The *Bulletin* keeps me informed ... but just to be able to say to fellow South Africans who come to visit here: I belong to the OPC warms my heart. So, here I am ... back in the club until the day I go.

Mrs. Wilhelmina de Kock, N.Y.C.
Information Service of South Africa.

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DINING ROOM: 687-7000, ext. 486

Lunch from 12 noon to 2 p.m.

Sandwiches from 5 to 8 p.m.



THE BULLETIN

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Harry Rand, Chairman; Helen Alpert, Ruth C. Biemiller, Charles H. Brown, Laurence Klingman, Thomas J. Kraner, Grace Naismith, David Resnick, Susan F. Roberts, Ralph Salazar, J. Wendell Sether.

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WhoWhatWhere

By GRACE NAISMITH

PUBLISHING EVENTS: **Thomas J. Cunningham, Jr.**, senior editor of National Center for Resource Recovery, Inc., Washington, D.C., has co-authored a new book with William Donohue Ellis, entitled "Clarke of St. Vith — The Sergeants' General," published by Dillon/Liederbach. General Bruce C. Clarke has many friends among OPC members, and there are references. Stars and Stripes and Overseas Weekly in the text ... **Don Peretz**, director of the Southwest Asian and North African Studies Program at the N.Y. State University at Binghamton, had an article, "Dilemmas of a Palestinian State" in the December 1974 issue of New Politics and a review article, "Dreamers of the Diaspora" in the February 22 issue of the Saturday Review. He will attend a seminar on "The Future of Palestine" in London, March 20-22, organized by the Council for the Advancement of Arab-British Understanding ... New books by **Betty Wason**: "Improving Your Home for Pleasure and Profit," U.S. News & World Report Books and "How to Give Wine and Cheese Tastings," Grosset & Dunlap, scheduled for May. Also an article forthcoming in Smithsonian Magazine on earliest universities ... **Herb Silverman** will have a story in March Travel & Leisure on compressed language courses, but Herb "has been upstaged by my daughter, Nora, 17, who is in the Irish Republic on her first overseas news assignment for American Girl on Irish teenagers today." ... **Ray Shaw** has a new book, "Washington for Children," to be published by Charles Scribner. She is lecturing and demonstrating also in connection with her "Candle Art," published last year by William Morrow & Company ... Sp5 **Conrad Clark** is writing a semi-weekly column, "A Reporter's Report" and a weekly column "Conrad Clark's Diary." You can hear him on radio WSTA-1340. That's in St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, where he retired in 1971 from the U.S. Army after 21 years, and is writing for the Virgin Island Post ... **Ranan Lurie**, cartoonist, depicts last year's politics in a new book, paperback 8 by 12, published by Quadrangle/The New York Times Book Co. Title: "Pardon Me, Mr. President!" Lurie was formerly a Life magazine cartoonist and is now syndicated by the Los Angeles Times, internationally by The New York Times, and Lurie is also political cartoonist of the international edition of Newsweek. He has won the Front

Page Award, the Headliner's Award and, for three consecutive years was named by the National Cartoonists' Society one of the best editorial cartoonists ... **Adele Nathan's** book, "How to Plan and Conduct a Bicentennial Celebration," is gaining momentum as 1976 approaches. Nancy Miller interviewed her recently in the News-Journal, Del Ray Beach, Fla. and Jean Dalrymple, 130 West 57 Street, N.Y. has made copies available for \$2. ...

NEW LOOK: (and not so new) — **John Noble Wilford** named director of science news at The New York Times, a promotion from his position as assistant national editor ... **Arky Gonzalez** has joined Ziff-Davis in a managing director capacity in Europe, Africa and the Middle East for Travel Weekly. In London: 87 Regent Street. **Louis Weintraub** renamed to the President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped. He's been a member since 1958, originally appointed by President Eisenhower ... **Edward Symonds** has been appointed Deputy Assistant Secretary for Energy Policy. Symonds was the first person named by Assistant Treasury Secretary Gerald L. Parsky. Symonds has been vice president of First National City Bank, New York ...

ILL: **Geraldine Fitch**, veteran reporter and author of Far Eastern books, is confined to bed because of an enlarged heart. "Letters," she writes her colleagues at OPC, "will be appreciated." Her address: 937 W. Bonita, Claremont, Calif. 91711 ...

OBITUARY

Edgar W. Nassauer, a retired newspaperman who had been a member of the OPC since 1960, died of leukemia on February 16.

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